

RIGHTS OF ADOPTEES WHO ARE AGE EIGHTEEN AND OLDER

Adult adoptees have the right to request and receive **non-identifying** background information about themselves and their birth family from their finalized adoption record.

Adult adoptees have the right to apply to the Virginia Department of Social Services for **identifying information** on their birth family, such as names and addresses. Good cause must be shown for the release of this information. Good cause means consent from the birth family member on whom identifying information is being sought.

Adult adoptees have the right to request that an attempt be made by the agency initially involved in the adoption, to convey critical medical, psychological, and genetic information to their birth parents or adult birth siblings. However, a physician or licensed mental health provider must certify in writing with a clear explanation as to the reasons, that it is critical that the information be conveyed. Confidentiality of all parties is to be maintained by the agency.

<p>In <u>parental placement adoptions</u>, where the consent to the adoption was executed on or after July 1, 1994, the adult adoptee may view the entire adoption record. However, any criminal record checks for the adoptive parent(s) which show a criminal record conviction cannot be released.</p>
